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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09QUITO981, LIBERTAD ACT: ECUADOR-CUBA RELATIONS

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09QUITO981**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09QUITO981	2009-11-19 22:35	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Quito

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/16/1/1355/cable-235716.html>

VZCZCXYZ0009
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0981/01 3232235
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 192235Z NOV 09
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0367
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0108
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0004

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000981

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS
DEPARTMENT PASS TO WHA/CCA FOR JARAHN HILLSMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2019/11/19
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [ETTC](#) [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [CU](#) [EC](#)
SUBJECT: LIBERTAD ACT: ECUADOR-CUBA RELATIONS

REF: STATE 115416; QUIT...

id: 235716
date: 11/19/2009 22:35
refid: 09QUITO981
origin: Embassy Quito
classification: CONFIDENTIAL
destination: 09QUITO375|09QUITO716|09QUITO841|09STATE115416
header:
VZCZCXYZ0009
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0981/01 3232235
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 192235Z NOV 09
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0367
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0108
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0004

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000981

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [ETTC](#) [ETRD](#) [PREL](#) [CU](#) [EC](#)
SUBJECT: LIBERTAD ACT: ECUADOR-CUBA RELATIONS

REF: STATE 115416; QUITO 375; QUITO 716; QUITO 841

CLASSIFIED BY: Heather Hodges, Ambassador, State, Exec; REASON:
1.4(B), (D)

11. (U) The Embassy provides the following information on the relationship between the Cuban government and Ecuador in response to Ref A.

12. (C) Ecuador has not worked to promote the advancement of democracy and human rights in Cuba, nor has it undertaken governmental action to condemn human rights abuses or to support civil society in Cuba. During a state visit to Cuba in January 2009, Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa accused the "Empire," meaning the United States, of ethnocide (apparently meaning destruction of a people's culture) and criticized the "perverse injustice" inflicted upon the five Cuban spies imprisoned in the U.S. Correa declared himself an unconditional ally of Cuba. He commended the Cuban revolution's achievements, claiming it had succeeded in ensuring human rights for all Cubans (Ref B). In June 2009 he criticized the Organization of American States for failing to include Cuba as a member and urged the OAS to "apologize" for the ongoing exclusion.

13. (C) Ecuador and Cuba continue to exchange high-level visitors. Cuban President Raul Castro attended Correa's August 10 inauguration ceremonies (Refs C and D), and President Correa visited Cuba in August and September 2009 for medical consultations and knee surgery. During his August visit, Correa spent several hours with Fidel Castro. Ecuadorian Vice President Lenin Moreno, who is disabled, conducted a 4-day visit to Cuba in October 2009 to study social programs for the disabled.

¶4. (SBU) Ecuador does not have significant economic interests in Cuba. No information was found regarding Ecuadorian investments in Cuba and the Central Bank does not list Cuba among those countries with foreign direct investment in Ecuador.

¶5. (SBU) During Correa's official trip to Cuba in January 2009, the two countries signed nine bilateral agreements in the areas of health, trade, culture, sports, science and technology, electricity and renewable energy, economic cooperation, reciprocal visa treatment for government officials, and political consultations (Ref. B). As a follow-up to the bilateral electricity and renewable energy agreement, President Correa issued a presidential decree on October 12 allowing the purchase of 68 Korean-built internal combustion electricity generators from Cuba, for a total of 150 MW generating power, without going through a competitive bid process. The expected delivery date of the generators has not been released.

¶6. (SBU) In August 2009, then Vice Minister of Commerce and Integration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Julio Oleas, visited Cuba to sign an extension to the 2000 bilateral Economic Complementation Agreement between the two countries, which contained reciprocal tariff preferences and measures to reduce trade barriers, including sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Ecuador's trade with Cuba is very small. In 2008, Ecuador had a positive trade balance of US\$ 12.2 million. Ecuadorian exports to Cuba totaled \$14.2 million that year, or less than 0.08 percent of Ecuador's total exports, with canned and pouch tuna accounting for 45 percent of the total. Imports from Cuba amounted to only \$2.0 million, or less than 0.03 percent of Ecuador's total imports. From January through September 2009, Ecuador exported only \$7.0 million worth of products to Cuba and imported \$2.7 million of goods from that country.

¶7. (U) Ecuadorian students, primarily in the medical field, study in Cuba, some on scholarships. Cuban doctors are working in Ecuador and regularly conduct medical outreach programs.
HODGES

=====CABLE ENDS=====